

HONORING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT JESSICA HILL TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Lieutenant Jessica Hill, who perished on August 17th in the line of duty for our country.

Lt. Hill was proud to serve in the United States Coast Guard, and she earned the respect and admiration of many. She joined the Coast Guard in October, 2001 after earning a Master's Degree, and was stationed at MSO San Francisco where she decided to become a Coast Guard Dive Officer.

After successfully completing dive school, Lt. Hill was assigned to the Cutter *Healy*, one of the Coast Guard's three polar ice cutters, as a marine science and dive officer. With her positive attitude, easy laugh and constant smile, she also served as Morale Officer for the crew of that vessel.

Lieutenant Jessica Hill's ambition, training and passion served to inspire her entire unit, her shipmates, her family and many outside the Coast Guard. She has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and was regarded as a good Coastie, a woman of honor and a patriot.

We should all remember Jessica's life, courage and ultimate sacrifice in service for our Nation.

A native of St. Augustine, Jessica was a loving daughter to Mr. William Hill and Mrs. Dawn Zimmerman, and sister to Mrs. Adrienne Gullet. To all of Jessica's family, we know she will be dearly missed and we extend our deepest sympathy.

Mr. Speaker, because of Lieutenant Jessica Hill's sacrifice for our country, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing her service in our Nation's Coast Guard and remembering both her life and her dedication to the United States of America.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF MACK BALL, SR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mack Ball, Sr., who passed away August 8, 2006, in Eudora, Arkansas at the age of 75.

Mack Ball, Sr. was dedicated to improving his home community of Eudora, Arkansas. He served the community as Mayor for 12 years and was the presiding Chicot County Judge. Mack Ball, Sr. was also a committed member of the Eudora Chamber of Commerce. He took a particular interest in improving public education opportunities in Eudora and served on Eudora Public School Board. In addition he was a past national board member of the Beefmaster Breeders Universal.

Mack Ball, Sr. was a man devoted to his faith and was a member of the Eudora Baptist Church where he served as a deacon and as a Sunday school teacher.

My deepest condolences go to his wife, Leila Ball; his son Mack Ball, Jr.; his daughter Sally Tisdale and husband Stephen; his daughter Kathryn Phillips and her husband Doug; his brother Fred Felts, Jr.; his five grandchildren Mary Kathryn Gilfoil, Allan Phillips, David Phillips, Meg Phillips, and Elizabeth Cooper; and his two great grandchildren. Mack Ball, Sr. will be greatly missed in Chicot County and throughout the state of Arkansas.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MR. PETER YELORDA

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the achievements of Mr. Peter Yelorda, a person who has spent nearly 35 years as a leader in the corporate and public sector, and a resident of the Fifth District of Missouri, which I am honored to represent. This week, Mr. Yelorda is to be inducted into the Missouri Walk of Fame during a reception as part of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference, an event held to honor the achievements of African-Americans who have made significant contributions to Missouri.

Peter holds a Bachelor of Science in Science from Eastern Michigan University, and a Masters in Education from the University of Michigan specializing in Public Policy, Community and National Planning and Development. He is the Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City and has served in that capacity for nine years. In his role as a senior executive at his company, Peter is one of the highest ranking African-American executives in the Greater Kansas City Area. Prior to joining Blue Cross Blue Shield, he was Assistant City Manager of the City of Kansas City, Missouri while I was Mayor.

Civically, Peter serves on nine boards in the Greater Kansas City Area, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the University of Missouri-Kansas City Board of Trustees, Urban League, and others. He serves as the Chairperson for the Full Employment Council, Chairman of the TIF Commission and Co-Chair of the Downtown Economic Stimulus Authority. In addition, he serves as the Chair of the Jazz District Redevelopment Corporation, the not-for-profit entity organized to revitalize the Historic 18th and Vine Jazz District. Under Peter's leadership, senior housing, a restaurant, and young adult housing were born. Mr. Yelorda is respected by business and community activists alike. Through these activities, Peter spends a considerable amount of time in service to the community each month. In all of his activities, he demonstrates his dedication and commitment to the greater good of others. Regardless of his leadership role, he always conducts himself with dedication, poise, and thoughtfulness, being mindful of all concerns.

For those reasons and more, it is indeed an honor and privilege to recognize Mr. Peter Yelorda at the Missouri Walk of Fame reception, hosted by myself and fellow Missourian, U.S. Representative WM. LACY CLAY of St. Louis.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to Peter and his endless commitment to serving the residents of the State of Missouri. He is a true role model not just to the African-American community in Missouri, but to the entire community at large. May his success serve as a stepping stone for many other African-Americans eager to be just as successful in their endeavors. While it is but a small acknowledgement for all of the work he has done, it is a heartfelt gesture, taking strength from the myriad lives he has touched in our hometown.

TRIBUTE TO UNION BENEFICA MEXICANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the Union Benefica Mexicana (U.B.M.) on its many accomplishments throughout its 50 years of service to the people of Northwest Indiana and Mexico. This exceptional milestone will be highlighted at the annual Mexican Day Parade to be held on Sunday, September 10, 2006, in East Chicago, Indiana.

The U.B.M., officially founded in November 1956, was the result of a merger between three established organizations: the Cuatemoc Association, the Benito Juárez Association, and the Union of Latin Steel Workers. Since its inception, the U.B.M. has always taken pride in being a pillar of the Mexican Community. They have always made it a priority to remember and celebrate Mexico's independence, through the organization of parades and festivities. At the same time, they have focused on improving the lives of the youth, speaking out against discrimination, and assisting those in need, both here in Northwest Indiana and throughout Mexico.

Throughout its history, the U.B.M. has been instrumental in improving the quality of life in the Mexican community. The efforts of the U.B.M. have been felt by every generation, but nowhere has the selfless commitment of its members been demonstrated more than to the youth of Northwest Indiana and Mexico. Locally, the U.B.M. has a strong tradition of sponsoring youth activities, such as Little League baseball teams, soccer teams, boxing teams, and folkloric dance groups, as well as organizing special events, such as Christmas and Halloween parties and the annual Fiesta De Los Niños celebration.

In addition, the U.B.M.'s commitment to improving educational opportunities for the youth of the community is evidenced by their sponsorship of storytelling sessions by renowned authors, their participation in public library reading programs, and training seminars focused on public speaking and artistic performance. The U.B.M.'s dedication to the youth, specifically towards young women in the community, is further demonstrated by an annual program which, with the support of local elected officials, awards scholarships to three deserving young women each year.

Outside of the United States, the U.B.M.'s commitment to the people of Mexico is a shining example of the dedication, generosity, and